

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN OES-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O.11652: N/A

SUBJECT: SAUDI ARABIA BANS CONTRACEPTIVES

1. NEW YORK TIMES MAY 7 CARRIED AP REPORT DATED LINED MECCA THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS BANNED CONTRACEPTIVES ON THE BASIS OF A RULING BY THE WORLD MOSLEM LEAGUE (WML) THAT "BIRTH CONTROL WAS INVENTED BY THE ENEMIES OF ISLAM." OFFICIALS WERE QUOTED AS SAYING THE DECREE, ISSUED APRIL 28, MADE THE SMUGGLING OF PILLS OR CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICES INTO THE COUNTRY PUNISHABLE BY SIX MONTHS IMPRISONMENT.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE MORE DETAILS ON WML DECISION AND WHY TAKEN AT THIS TIME, WML MEMBERSHIP OUTSIDE SAUDI ARABIA, AND FULL TEXT OF SAUDI ANNOUNCEMENT, IF AVAILABLE.

3. FYI. SAUDI ARABIA DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE AT BUCHAREST IN AUGUST 1974 AND, THEREFORE, WAS NOT PART OF THE CONSENSUS OF 136 U.N. MEMBER STATES WHICH ADOPTED THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION. SECTION 14(F) OF THE PLAN OF ACTION STATES: "ALL COUPLES AND INDIVIDUALS HAVE THE BASIC HUMAN RIGHT
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TO DECIDE FREELY AND RESPONSIBLY THE NUMBER AND SPACING

OF THEIR CHILDREN AND TO HAVE THE INFORMATION, EDUCATION
AND MEANS TO DO SO . . ." THIS WAS A REAFFIRMATION OF A
SIMILAR STATEMENT INCORPORATED IN THE 1968 TEHRAN DECLARA-
TION OF UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS. THE WORLD POPULATION

PLAN OF ACTION ALSO EMPHASIZES THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF
EVERY NATION TO ADOPT POPULATION POLICIES TO SUIT ITS
NEEDS FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. KISSINGER

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